

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-9 in the application. Previously, the Applicants amended Claims 1, 3-8 and added Claims 10-12. In the present response, the Applicants have canceled Claims 1-2 without prejudice or disclaimer and have amended Claims 3-9 and 11 to change dependencies. Accordingly, Claims 3-12 are currently pending in the application. The Applicants believe the present amendment places the Claims in condition for allowance in view of the cited references.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-7, 9-10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-7, 9-10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,924,065 to Eberman, *et al.* As noted above, Claims 1-2 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection of the still pending Claims 3-7, 9-10 and 12 as argued below.

The Examiner asserts Eberman discloses updating feature vectors wherein the corrected vectors are applied to tainted vectors to provide a more accurate, updated version of the input signal based on input parameters. (*See Examiner's Final Rejection, page 2.*) Thus, assuming *arguendo* that the Examiner's assertion is correct, Eberman discloses updating the input signal (feature vectors) based on input parameters. The Applicants fail to find, nor does the Examiner assert, where Eberman updates a model for speech recognition. More specifically, Eberman fails to disclose each limitation of independent Claim 12, including: (1) adjusting a covariance associated with the model by a scaling factor to provide an adjusted variance; (2) updating the scaling factor each time

new data of the speech signal is available; and (3) updating the model using the adjusted covariance. Thus, while Eberman purportedly discloses changing *feature vectors* by applying correction vectors, Eberman does not appear to teach each limitation of Claim 12 directed to updating a model for speech recognition.

Therefore, for at least the reasons given above, Eberman does not disclose each and every element of independent Claim 12. As such, Eberman does not anticipate Claim 12 and Claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §102 rejection with respect to Claims 3-7, 9-10 and 12 and allow issuance thereof.

II. Rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eberman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,266,638 to Stylianou. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Eberman fails to disclose each element of independent Claim 12. Additionally, Eberman fails to suggest each element of Claim 12 since Eberman relates to compensating speech signals (*see* column 1, lines 6-10), not updating a model for speech recognition. More specifically, Eberman relates to determining an estimation of noise to adapt feature vectors (*see* column 6, lines 50-54 of Eberman and paragraph 5 of the present invention). As such, Eberman fails to teach or suggest each element of independent Claim 12.

Stylianou relates to increasing the naturalness of concatenative speech synthesis. (*See* column 1, lines 7-9, and column 2, line 5.) Stylianou has not been cited to cure the above noted deficiencies of Eberman but to address dependent Claim 8. (*See* Examiner's Final Rejection, page

5.) Thus, the cited combination of Eberman and Stylianou does not provided a *prima facie* case of obviousness of independent Claim 12 and Claim 8 which depends thereon. The Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the §103(a) rejection of Claim 8 and allow issuance thereof.

III. Rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eberman in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0026253 A1 to Rajan. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Eberman fails to provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of independent Claim 12. Rajan has not been cited to cure the deficiencies of Eberman but to address dependent Claim 11. (See Examiner's Final Rejection, pages 5-6.) Thus, the cited combination of Eberman and Rajan does not provided a *prima facie* case of obviousness of independent Claim 12 and Claim 11 which depends thereon. The Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the §103(a) rejection of Claim 11 and allow issuance thereof.

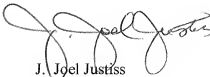
IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 3-12.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, credits or overpayments to Deposit Account 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,

HITT GAINES, PC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Joel Justiss", with a stylized flourish at the end.

J. Joel Justiss
Registration No. 48,981

Dated: May 29, 2008

P.O. Box 832570
Richardson, Texas 75083
(972) 480-8800